

# Robert Scheer at FFF Conference 2007, Part 4 of 6

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw\\_I-Is0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw_I-Is0k) ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw\\_I-Is0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw_I-Is0k))

Uploaded by [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqOG4zIDmbIUk12Fzwg5tLA>) on Tue Aug 21 2007.

Robert Scheer on "Ike Was Right and We Are Becoming What We Despise" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Robert Scheer covered presidential politics for The Los Angeles Times for thirty years. He is the author of six books, including: *With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush, and Nuclear War*; *America after Nixon: The Age of the Multinationals*; and coauthor of *The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us about Iraq*.

Playlist of Scheer's lecture: [http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=24B11D216AD6C419](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=24B11D216AD6C419)

---

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw\\_I-Is0k\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw_I-Is0k)

how could communist Vietnam economies China be fighting a fierce war for shelf space at costco and walmart now know or if control the old imperial model you know we got angry with the French and the Germans because they didn't agree going into Iraq now why didn't they want us to go in why didn't they think we're smart the argument was well they're wimps my father was a German Protestant my mother was a Russian Jew i was born in 1936 i never thought i'd live to see the day when I was told the Germans lacked the DNA to be violent you know but that was the argument somehow the Germans in the french they don't like to fight you know the French you had a big colonial empire that it ain't occur to anybody that the French learned from Algeria they learn from Indochina the journeys learned from their foreign adventures that imperialism does not pay it pays for some people it pays for Dick Cheney it pays for some sectors of the economy it does not pay for your overall economy it does not pay for your average taxpayer by any means and that's what they understood that's why they told us not to go and they understood what Colin Powell said you know if you break it you own it but you don't really own it and the fact is I just read an article in The Wall Street Journal as I was flying here the Chinese economy is now growing at eleven percent and ours is stagnating and we control the oil you know it turns out you can buy this stuff on the open market you don't have to be guarding the pipeline's all the time and risking your lives you know so here the Chinese are following really you know the old Adam Smith capitalist model as rapidly as they can get to it by it up find it you

[00:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw\\_I-Is0k&t=121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOrw_I-Is0k&t=121s)

they can get to it by it up find it you know exploit it etc etc until I have only a few more minutes so I just want to put more of a little point on this and that is that the fear-mongering I just want to give you an example of the disconnect about this because this is not over I remember talking about Vietnam when right now we have more of a military presence in Iraq as a percentage of the population than we ever had in Vietnam don't kid yourself so here is the washington post today good thing i read it typical you can tell the whole story of what's happening in Iraq okay our secretary fence Robert Gates follows up on the words of our White House press secretary that we the model now is Korea and we may be in Iraq for 50 years all right I can't make this stuff up okay and why because they need us and and and and snow said is what Tony said he said what you really what you're really dealing with is the internal security of Iraq rather than trying to provide a real reassurance against an external fault well why do they need our troops to protect themselves against themselves it's incredibly bizarre and you wonder how bizarre it is the top story here when you know somebody who gets to travel out there with the American troops he's quoting the mayor the guy we like now

because he's against al-qaeda Abdul Khaliq and he said this is a quote but if the Americans interfere will blow up because they are the enemy of us both is our guy I really you can't write stuff like this and we will unite against them and stop fighting each other did you ever hear a better argument for getting the hell out of the rock and then finally just

[00:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=241s)

of the rock and then finally just showing you that we have an accurate sample here there's three stories in the paper today and this one is about the sad detainee from Saudi Arabia found who killed himself who was in Guantanamo how did he get to Guantanamo you reading the story and you'll find out again he's one of ours we still don't have in Iraqi hijacker blowing up buildings here we still haven't found one of Sodom hostiles guys but this salary who we accused of being involved with al-qaeda was somebody we recruited and trained and then he kills himself because we haven't gone to trial we haven't found anything on him so that's the Washington Post let me just end by saying like what do I have five minutes three minutes just to sub 10 okay let me say that the real lesson here and and this is why I began by saying I don't want to conflate the whole argument of big government as well as I do think there was something special about empire and the national security state and I think that other General George Washington i just reread I went upstairs instead of eating and I reread George Washington's farewell address these guys right good parallel addresses is that its generals turn presidents and you could not find a more nuanced serious complex thoughtful critique of the dangers of foreign entanglement and George Washington into just what is involved and the bottom line is you cannot have a democracy popular control free press free society limited government all these things that I believe are possible with the Constitution not just with the Articles of Confederation I like the Bill of Rights I think we got a pretty good model I think we've done our best to destroy it in the eyes of the world we lecture people around the world low division of powers is great but our Congress rolls over you know it's good to have a Supreme Court the Supreme Court unless the president reappoint himself you know I mean you could write down the line a free press Congress shall make no law framers president but our press shows no

[00:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=361s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=361s)

framers president but our press shows no independence at all and I want to say something about courage and I really respect our whistle blows or so forth but I ask my colleagues in the media I said wait a minute we have asked people around the world journalists to stand up and we have brave girls who go in culver combat i'm not taking anything back from that but when i think of those editors at the big television stations and big newspapers who cave who were afraid what were they afraid of losing market share the reader is ninety percent against what's going to happen they're worried about a slight kink in their career curve this is not torture this is not your testicles crush this is not any of those things your relatives all killed and the lack of courage on the part of people who live in a free society and benefit from it and raised to believe and the values of limited government and honesty and truth seeking you know an accountability and the public having a right to know representative government the betrayal of those ideas is unconscionable unconscionable and I think the most serious danger that has occurred is the mocking the destruction of this model which I happen to think is the best model for people not to blindly follow not to be imposed on them but I do believe in that model of limited government I do believe in that model of citizen rights and I think that this administration yes others have done the same particularly since World War two but this administration is taking our society to a new note it is extremely dangerous and the bottom line let me tell you the bottom line the bottom line is we do have a military-industrial complex we do have people who benefit from having a big military to stop people who use three dollar box cutters that you could get at home depot we have approved tens of millions and hundreds of millions for the stealth fighter designed to counter a Soviet Air Force though there's no longer in

[00:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=481s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOw-I-Is0k&t=481s)

though there's no longer in this war on terror has been an excuse for ramping up a military budget that is at the point of exceeding Cold War needs when we had a serious enemy and so when you think about the difficulty of getting through to the public it's not that just such a small number of us libertarians or such a small number of us are bleeding heart liberals like this does sheer you know the real problem is that we have these big institutions with a lot of talented people a lot of smart people who make a very good living laying to us they get contracts and whether they're at Boeing or at their Halliburton or whether they're at the universities and other thing eyes and I warned about all those contracts going from the government to the universities or whether it in newspapers that don't want to rock the boat want to have access to the White House the fact is we have people in the society or very well-trained very smart very articulate and are in the business of lying to us professionally because they line their pockets by doing that that's the name of the game that's what the military dustrial complex is about and if you continue to let them hold sway you will not have a democracy matter even if you bring back the Articles of Confederation

---

END